المجلس الإسلامي الأوروبي
Islamic Council of Europe

10 April 1981

Mr Thomas Hammarberg
Secretary General
Amnesty International
10 Southampton Street
London WC2E 7HF

Dear Mr Hammarberg,

We understand that the Political Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe is to meet in Paris on 28 April to discuss the position regarding the political detainees in Turkey, and that Amnesty International has been invited to attend.

I hope that you will not mind my writing to you again to stress the case of the political detainees, including Professor Erbakan and his colleagues in the National Salvation Party, and to request you to plead, on their behalf at this meeting, for fair and open trials before civil courts. These are men who, according to our information, have not been involved in any act of violence and who stand accused only for their beliefs.

May I take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for your past cooperation in matters of mutual concern and in working for justice on behalf of people who are prisoners of conscience. I wish the Paris meeting all success and look for a favourable outcome that will, at the very least, induce the military regime to assure that all the political detainees are given fair trials and the right to appeal should the judgement go against them. I am sure we can rely on Amnesty International to put this point emphatically at the Paris meeting.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

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